



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 22, 2004

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: CREEK AND ESTUARY MONITORING CONTRACT WITH ECORP CONSULTING

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve and authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a professional services contract with ECORP Consulting Inc. in the amount of \$79,970 to conduct annual Benthic Macroinvertebrate (BMI) studies in city creeks and focused tidewater goby and BMI studies in the Arroyo Burro and Mission Creek Estuaries.

DISCUSSION:

Citywide BMI Studies

The scope of work includes Benthic Macroinvertebrates (BMI) monitoring at several locations within Sycamore, Arroyo Burro, and Mission Creeks. The Creeks Division has been monitoring for the BMI since 2002 in partnership with the County's Project Clean Water. Although the County can no longer participate in the BMI monitoring effort due to funding constraints, it is recommended that BMI monitoring continue with City creek locations.

BMI are used by both state and federal agencies as indicator species of creek health. BMI are essentially bugs that live a portion of their lifecycle in creek water. Certain BMI species cannot tolerate poor water quality conditions. Measuring the type and number of bugs helps to determine the quality of the water within city creeks, and to track long-term changes. This provides a stable measurement of water quality and effectively complements the periodic (weekly/monthly/storm) bacteria and pollutant monitoring currently being conducted by the Creeks Division.

REVIEWED BY: _____ Finance _____ Attorney

Agenda Item No. _____

Arroyo Burro and Mission Creek Estuary Studies

The purpose of these studies is to develop baseline data on the tidewater goby and BMI populations in the Arroyo Burro and Mission Creek Estuaries. The lack of baseline data was a key issue in the environmental analysis of the ultraviolet light (UV) water treatment system at Arroyo Burro. Although not proceeding with the UV system at this time, the Creeks Division recommends that baseline data be gathered in order to better understand the health of the estuary and determine whether to proceed with water quality treatment at some point in the future. Baseline data will also assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the Arroyo Burro and Mesa Creek restoration project, and complement current intensive bacteria monitoring and the proposed DNA microbial source tracking studies.

Monitoring for tidewater goby and BMI in the Mission Creek Estuary is included in the contract for a number of reasons. First, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recommended monitoring of the tidewater goby in the Mission Creek Estuary to serve as a control site for the Arroyo Burro Estuary monitoring. Also, in 2002 Laguna Channel was identified as a potential location for a water quality treatment facility. Funds for the identification and design of a water treatment facility for Laguna Channel were included in the FY 2004 capital program budget. Since Laguna Channel empties into the Mission Creek Estuary, and the Estuary supports the endangered tidewater goby, it is anticipated that the USFWS will need baseline data to determine the environmental feasibility of operating any water quality treatment facility at Laguna Channel.

The monitoring work as proposed is consistent with the recommendations from the USFWS as well as the monitoring program recommended for approval by the Creeks Advisory Committee in March 2004.

Consultant Selection

A request for proposals was distributed to eight firms and four proposals were received. Interviews were given to all four firms that submitted proposals. ECORP Consulting, Inc. is recommended for this project because they had the most competitive cost proposal, are very experienced in tidewater goby and BMI monitoring, and hold the necessary Federal permits to conduct the tidewater goby surveys.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Funds for monitoring in 2004 are appropriated in the Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2004 operating fund. It is anticipated that at least two years of monitoring will be needed to gather baseline data. Prior to recommending a second year of monitoring, the Creeks Division and Creeks Advisory Committee will review the first year monitoring results. The following table provides a breakdown of 2004 monitoring costs.

Monitoring	Location	Cost
Citywide BMI	Sycamore, Arroyo Burro and Mission	\$10,810
Tidewater Goby	Arroyo Burro	\$15,320
	Mission Creek	\$15,320
BMI	Arroyo Burro	\$19,260
	Mission Creek	\$19,260
Total		\$79,970

PREPARED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager/glj

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Acting Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office